

## Message Text

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44

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 PM-07 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 IO-13 L-03 DRC-01

/098 W

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R 101503Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8585

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRETORIA 3240

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINR, SF

SUBJ: PROPOSED ATTACHE CORPS VISIT TO CAPRIVI STRIP

REF: (A) STATE 177011; (B) LONDON 10326

1. CHARGE CALLED ON BRITISH AMBASSADOR SIR JAMES BOTTOMLEY MORNING SEPTEMBER 10 UPON LATTER'S RETURN FROM TRIP AND EXPRESSED OUR VIEWS AND MISGIVINGS RE PROPOSED ATTACHE VISIT AS PER REF (A). BOTTOMLEY WAS AWARE OF ATTACHE VISIT TO CAPRIVI AND SAID HIS ARMY ATTACHE HAD BEEN INSTRUMENTAL IN INSTIGATING INVITATION FROM SA DEFENSE FORCE LIAISON GROUP. UK MILITARY ATTACHES HAD LONG BEEN TRYING TO FIND OPPORTUNITY TO VISIT SWA AND ESPECIALLY CAPRIVI, AND BOTTOMLEY BELIEVED SUCH A VISIT WAS LOGICAL AND NECESSARY PART OF THEIR FUNCTION AS INTELLIGENCE OFFICERS. HE HAD THEREFORE INTENDED PERMIT THEM TO PARTICIPATE IN TRIP, ALTHOUGH HE WOULD NOW GET IN TOUCH WITH FCO AS RESULT OUR DEMARCHE.

2. BOTTOMLEY SAID THAT HE FRANKLY DID NOT RPT NOT SHARE OUR CONCERN THAT OUR PARTICIPATION IN VISIT MIGHT BE INTERPRETED AS SUPPORTING SOUTH AFRICAN ACTIONS IN THE AREA. HE DOUBTED THIS WOULD BE CASE AND ADVANCED, WITHOUT MUCH CONVICTION, COUNTER ARGUMENT THAT VISIT OF US AND UK ATTACHES MIGHT EVEN HAVE INHIBITING EFFECT IF SAG WERE IN FACT CONTEMPLATING EVENTUAL  
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RETALIATORY STRIKES FROM CAPRIVI. ON OTHER HAND, HE

RECOGNIZED FORCE OF ARGUMENTATION RE UNFORTUNATE TIMING OF PROPOSED TRIP ON EVE OF UNGA AND SC MEETINGS AND THOUGHT THAT ARGUMENT, PLUS FACT OF OUR DEMARCHE, MIGHT GIVE LONDON PAUSE. ON BALANCE, EVEN WHILE RECOGNIZING OUR PROBLEMS WITH TRIP, HE WAS INCLINED TO RECOMMEND TO LONDON THAT UK ATTACHES ACCEPT INVITATION UNLESS FCO ATTACHED OVERRIDING IMPORTANCE TO RESPONDING AFFIRMATIVELY TO OUR APPROACH.

3. CHARGE WAS GUEST LATER SAME DAY AT PREARRANGED LUNCHEON GIVEN BY BOTTOMLEYS. SIR JAMES PULLED CHARGE ASIDE TO SAY THAT FOLLOWING THEIR MORNING MEETING, HIS ARMY ATTACHE HAD INFORMED HIM THAT LATE SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER DATES FOR PROPOSED ATTACHE TRIP NOW APPEARED LESS FIRM THAN ORIGINALLY THOUGHT AND THAT SAG APPEARED TO BE QUOTE STALLING UNQUOTE. WILL ADVISE OF FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS.

4. RE FRENCH POSITION, NEITHER WE NOR BRITISH HAVE ANY REASON TO BELIEVE THEY WOULD HAVE ANY PROBLEM WHATEVER WITH PROPOSED TRIP. SAME IS PROBABLY TRUE OF PORTUGUESE AND ARGENTINE MILITARY ATTACHES.

SMITH

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